

APPROVED

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR meeting of
Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers**

CALL TO ORDER; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE; ROLL CALL

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Board of Education met in regular session on the 14th day of July 2021, in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough Assembly Chambers. Board President Kim Hodne called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present to establish a quorum and due notice had been published: Board President Kim Hodne; Board Vice President Diane Gubatayao; Clerk-Treasurer Bridget Mattson; and Board Members Paul Robbins Jr.; Jordan Tabb; and Nicole Anderson. Board Member Douglas Gregg participated via teleconference.

Administrative staff present included Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson and Board Clerk Kerry Watson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda for the regular meeting of July 14, 2021.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: GUBATAYAO

ROLL CALL

ANDERSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, ROBBINS JR., GREGG, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Sarah Campbell, an English teacher at Ketchikan High School, was recognized for her selection for, and participation in, the Peace Teachers Program through the U.S. Institute of Peace. Ms. Campbell was selected as one of four Peace Teachers nationwide in 2019. Due to the pandemic, the 2019 program was extended for those teachers to the 2021 school year.

Ms. Campbell was invited to the podium. She provided more information about the teachers' peace program, the Kings for Peace Week, and her approach to educating about conflict resolution and peace.

CITIZEN REMARKS

There were none.

INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Policy Committee members Paul Robbins Jr. and Diane Gubatayao briefly reported on the committee's most recent activity, which included discussion with WISH regarding a potential new policy.

Ms. Gubatayao reported that she will be heading to the Association of Alaska School Boards meeting as a recently appointed director on its Board of Directors.

Board Member Nicole Anderson said that the Smart Start Committee, which initially met in June, will meet again on August 3 to plan for the 2021-2022 school year. An online survey would soon be available for parents and staff regarding next school year.

CLAIMS FOR INFORMATION of June 16, 2021; June 23, 2021; and July 1, 2021.

There were no questions or comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Planning for face to face learning of pre-K through twelfth-grade students for next year will start at the beginning of August, reported Interim Superintendent Melissa Johnson. The group working on the back to school plan, known officially by the state's title of the Smart Start Plan, will be adjusting the contingency plan, said Ms. Johnson. The group hopes to make recommendations to the Board at its August 11 meeting. Feedback on school planning will be solicited from staff and parents through surveys open from July 15 to August 25. In addition, Interim Superintendent Johnson reported that: a summer school for kindergarten through sixth-grade students will run from July 19 to August 12 at Fawn Mountain; a committee had unanimously recommended Derek Meister to be hired as the new special education director; and she is working with Bill Whicker and Kepa Wong on updating the school district website.

Interim Superintendent Johnson then asked Michael Johnson, First Student Location Manager, to speak about the school bus company's activities. He first thanked the Board for approving the bus company contract earlier this year. Mr. Johnson shared that one of the company's successes was being named as the top performing location out of 419 other bus locations in the nation for the month of May. This designation was based on a series of operational factors such as on-time operation and safety, he said. Among the activities that Mr. Johnson reported on were that: the company is doing dry runs of upcoming routes and has tested its new GPS bus tracking system; and is auditing its bus camera systems. He also said that long-time bus company dispatcher Linda Branson has announced she will be retiring. Mr. Johnson also noted that the company is always looking to hire drivers and bus attendants.

In follow up to the Interim Superintendent's report, several Board members commented on the need to ensure that the survey opportunity is well publicized in the community. Ms. Gubatayao suggested that the district sponsor a vaccine clinic for eligible students in mid-August.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar of July 14, 2021 (consisting of the following):

- a. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 16, 2021.
- b. Motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 23, 2021.
- c. Motion to approve the special meeting minutes of July 1, 2021.
- d. Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Geoffrey Frix for the 2021-2022 school year.
- e. Motion to approve the offer of a teaching contract to Jaysel Señires for the 2021-2022 school year.

Moved by: TABB; Second by: MATTSON

ROLL CALL

GREGG, ANDERSON, TABB, GUBATAYAO, ROBBINS JR., MATTSON, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve an administrative contract with Derek Meister for the 2021-22 school year as Special Education Director in the amount of \$143,132.

Moved by: MATTSON; Second by: GUBATAYAO

Discussion

Mr. Robbins Jr. asked about the advertising process for this position. Interim Superintendent Johnson said that the position was open to all applicants, but local candidates were interviewed first. As a result, the committee unanimously chose Mr. Meister, she said.

Ms. Gubatayao said her only regret with this hire was in losing Mr. Meister as the school district psychologist. She also commented that a former Ketchikan student had interned with Mr. Meister for clinical psychology this spring.

ROLL CALL

GUBATAYAO, MATTSON, TABB, GREGG, ROBBINS JR., ANDERSON, HODNE – ALL AYES

MOTION PASSED

DISCUSSION - No topics listed

President Kim Hodne asked Board members if they wanted to suggest any issues for Ms. Gubatayao to discuss with AASB. Several members responded with suggested topics.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board Member Douglas Gregg briefly commented on the length of time that Ms. Campbell had taught in the district.

Board Member Jordan Tabb said he'd been reflecting on what helped the Ketchikan school district successfully deal with the COVID pandemic this past year. He said that much of that is due to those who provided resources and expressed his appreciation for that.

Ms. Anderson encouraged community members, parents, and school district staff to complete the survey. She also congratulated Ms. Campbell for her recognition and for her 22-year tenure with the school district.

Mr. Robbins expressed appreciation for the type of education being promoted by the U.S. Institute of Peace and Ms. Campbell. As a veteran, he said he particularly appreciates the importance of teaching conflict resolution and is proud of Ms. Campbell for doing so.

Board Member Bridget Mattson also encouraged completion of the survey, stating it will help the district determine what did and did not work. She also emphasized that this next school year will be in-person. She said she was grateful for all who made this past school year successful in every aspect from education, to sports, to meals and transportation.

Ms. Gubatayao thanked the committee for its work and commented positively on the survey. She also read the information she had provided to the Ketchikan City Council regarding pediatrician Dr. Tim Horton's assistance to the School Board and school district regarding COVID-related issues.

Mr. Hodne briefly commented on the Board's work, and encouraged people to complete the survey. He asked the Interim Superintendent about a potential town hall. Ms. Johnson replied that if the school operation plan for next year is ready, it will be presented and discussed with the community on August 10. It will then be presented to the Board on August 11.

ADVANCE PLANNING

It was noted that the next regular School Board meeting would be August 11, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Approved as distributed at the August 11, 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Education.

BOARD PRESIDENT
Kim Hodne